

CHAPTER IV DETAIL DESIGN

*Missouri
Department
of Transportation*



Mike Bruemmer, district engineer

North Central District

Route 63

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May 15, 1995

Mr. Mike Hickman
Postmaster
Princeton, MO 64673

Dear Postmaster Hickman:

We are presently designing a project to widen the roadway, resurface the roadway and extend the shoulders to 6 ft. on Route 136 in Mercer County. The project as proposed extends from Harrison County line to west of West Muddy Creek. It is scheduled to be let after October 1996. The contractor who is awarded the project will begin work approximately one month following the letting. The project as proposed will include providing an 8 ft. wide mailbox turnout at the mailboxes located throughout the project.

We appreciate you meeting with Joyce Foster, District Highway Design Engineer and Erin Gruber, Highway Designer on May 11th. The following is a list of properties which have hazardous supports which will not be reset by the contractor with the existing post. As discussed, please notify your patrons of this policy at these locations:

Sta 95+20	Box # 142
Sta 128+24	Patricia J. Troester (Property owner)
Sta 298+40	Michael D. Remus
Sta 317+87	MacDonald
Sta 452+80	Joseph W. Berger (Property owner)

Our standard special provisions require mailboxes within the limits of a project be removed by the contractor before work has begun, set temporarily to be accessible to the carrier and patron and properly reset by the contractor before final acceptance of the work. However, some mailboxes are serious roadside hazards because they are mounted on farm implements, heavy concrete supports, welded to steel tire rims, cemented into large milk or cream containers, etc.

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The executive Committee of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) on May 24, 1984, approved an informational guide for erecting mailboxes on highways. It states that nominal 4" x 4" square or 4 1/2" diameter wood posts or 1 1/2" to 2" standard steel or aluminum pipe posts, embedded no more than 24" into the ground, are the maximum strength supports which should be considered for mailboxes. Our policy is to identify mailbox supports in gross violation of these guidelines and request the local postmaster's assistance in requiring the mail patron to change the support to comply with the national standards and reduce the potential safety hazard. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

After the project is awarded, the resident engineer will determine those mailboxes which must be removed and temporarily reset by the contractor. If the mailbox posts do not comply with AASHTO guidelines, the postal patrons will be advised that we cannot reset the mailbox since the support represents a hazardous condition to the traveling public. The patron will be advised as to acceptable supports and requested to remount their mailbox on such a support. We will offer to furnish a free 4" x 4" wood post which does meet safety requirements.

If the patron declines to reattach their mailbox to an acceptable post, the contractor will not be allowed to reset the mailbox in either a temporary or permanent location. The patron may, of course, reset a mailbox with an unacceptable post without assistance of the department or the contractor. Unsafe posts erected by individual postal patrons will be documented.

Mailboxes are the owners' responsibility to build and maintain; however, the department will provide drawings and other information for persons wanting to make their mailboxes safer. Copies of the various approved mailbox supports are attached for your use.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Please contact Joyce Foster, district highway design engineer, at (816) 385-3176 if you have further questions about our mailbox policy or future project. Or should you have any concerns during the construction phase of this project, please contact Joe Shroer, resident engineer at (816) 646-3218.

Sincerely,

Bill Yarnell, P.E.
District Engineer

jf

Attachments

Copy: Rick Ogle-co